SPIDER-MAN® UNMASKED

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DAVID EATON DELL

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

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Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN

Spider-Man has made one of the biggest decisions in his life by turning against Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and the United States government. And by joining Captain America's rebellion against the Superhuman Registration Act while his secret identity is already revealed to the world, Peter has put himself and his loved ones in a dangerous position–they are now fugitives from justice and prime targets for the government and its shadowy conspirators.

Now the government has cast a crucial move against the webslinger by enlisting his arch-nemesis, Adrian Toomes, a.k.a. the Vulture, to track him down. Armed with the knowledge that Spider-Man is actually Peter Parker and that ex-girlfriend Deb Whitman has written a scathing, tell-all memoir about her relationship with Peter, the Vulture crashed a book signing where both Deb and Peter were present.

A battle ensued between the webslinger and his winged enemy during which the Vulture slashed Spider-Man with his new poisoned claws. The poison caused Spider-Man to lose consciousness hundreds of stories above ground, sending the webslinger into a perilous plummet. The Vulture had barely celebrated this victory when he was knocked unconscious by a mysterious affliction and joined Spider-Man in his fatal plunge towards the pavement...

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YOU HUMILIATED ME, PETER! I TRUSTED YOU! OPENED MY HEART TO YOU!

AND WHAT DID YOU GIVE ME IN RETURN?

DEB, I'M... I'M SORRY IT WORKED OUT THE WAY IT DID...

00:30

"WORKED OUT?" WHAT THE HELL "WORKED OUT" ABOUT IT?

YOU DROVE ME OUT OF MY MIND! LITERALLY! AND ALL THE TIME, YOU KNEW IT WAS YOUR SECRET LIFE THAT WAS DOING IT, AND YOU LET IT HAPPEN!

I DIDN'T "*LET IT.*" I EVEN TOLD YOU WHO I WAS...

00:29

YOU ONLY TOLD ME KNOWING I WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOU!

THE DAMAGE WAS DONE!

DEB, THAT'S NOT FAIR--

00:28

YOU DON'T GET TO LECTURE *ME* ABOUT FAIR AND UNFAIR!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I WAS FALLING FOR YOU!

00:27

FALLING FOR YOU!

00:26

FALLING FOR YOU!

FALLING!

00:25

00:24

"FALLING!"

DELL

TAKING WING

conclusion

PETER DAVID	SCOT EATON	JOHN DELL	MATT MILLA	VC'S CORY PETIT	MICHAEL O'CONNOR	AXEL ALONSO	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER	ASSISTANT EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER

OH MY GOD... HE'S...HE'S ONLY GOT SECONDS...!

PETE! PETE, SNAP OUT OF IT!

HE...HE LOOKS UNCONSCIOUS!

Barnes & Ba

Books

00:23

"WERE YOU UNCONSCIOUS OF THE EFFECT YOU WERE HAVING ON ME?"

NO... I...

00:22

A LOT YOU CARE!

SHUT UP, FLASH!!

OKAY, RATE OF SPEED IS 32 FEET PER SECOND, PER SECOND, SO HE'S GOT...

DAMN. WHERE'S MY CALCULATOR...

00:21

"OR MAYBE YOU THINK IT'S MY FAULT. THAT I SHOULD HAVE PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER..."

I... don't think that...

00:21

PEEEETERRRRRR!!! WAKE UPPPPPP!

00:20

WAKE UP, YOU IDIOT!

THAT'S *YOU* ALL OVER, ISN'T IT. A HOPELESS DREAMER, WASTING HIS LIFE DREAMING OF A LIFE THAT WON'T *EVER* BE!

DREAMING THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WHEN IT DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

00:19

YOU DON'T KNOW *WHAT* THE WORLD WANTS! HELL, THE *WORLD* DOESN'T KNOW!

AND YOU *DON'T* KNOW *ME*, EVEN NOW, WHEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING *ABOUT* ME!

00:18

I'VE HAD A BELLYFUL OF PEOPLE SLAMMING ME FOR EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DONE! BELIEVING THE WORST OF ME EVERY TIME OUT!

AND IF YOU, WHO SAYS SHE *CARED* FOR ME, CAN'T EVEN GIVE ME THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, THEN *FORGET* IT!

00:17

MY WHOLE LIFE, PEOPLE LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING TRASH ABOUT ME! BUT IF YOU'RE THINKING I'M FALLING FOR THAT LINE OF--

FALLING FOR...

00:16

FALLING...

00:15

FALLING...?

00:14

FALLING!!

HOLY CRAP!

00:13

THWIP

THWIP

00:12

00:11

00:11

C'MON, C'MON--!

00:10

Come on, come on...

00:09

ALMOST GOT IT...

00:08

OKAY! HE'S GOT ABOUT SEVEN SECONDS TO--

00:07

00:06

SPROOIING

00:05

YEAH, OKAY, NEVER MIND.

HEAD'S STILL FUZZY FROM WHATEVER THE VULTURE HIT ME WITH...

I'LL GET HIM FOR THIS. I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO TEAR THIS CITY APART BRICK BY BRICK, I'M GOING TO--

OOOOOOF!!!

WELL...THAT TOOK ME A LITTLE LESS TIME THAN I THOUGHT.

OH LORD, HE'S *FALLING* AGAIN.

HE DOES THAT A *LOT*. HASN'T HIT THE GROUND YET.

ONE TIME IS ALL IT TAKES.

OKAY, VULCHY! YOU WANTED TO DANCE! LET'S--

VULTURE?

TOOMES?

IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF *TRICK*, I'LL--

THWIP

NO. NO, IT'S *NO* TRICK.

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS ACTING LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN *THERE*. HE'S *NO* THREAT.

SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED* TO HIM...

...AND I'M SURE NOT THE ONE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT WAS.

WOW. A LOT OF PEOPLE CERTAINLY TURNED OUT FOR THIS SIGNING.

OH! AND THERE'S *FLASH*--!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD. GOD AS MY WITNESS, I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO DIE, RIGHT HERE, IN FRONT OF US...

OH, AND YOU'D HAVE *LIKED* THAT, WOULDN'T YOU. WOULD'VE MADE EVERYTHING SQUARE BETWEEN--

WAAAP

YOU DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING!* NOT A *THING*, YOU--!

YOU... YOU *STUPID* JOCK--!

HOW *DARE* YOU! YOU DON'T...

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!

OH, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, BETTY? *SHOOT* ME?

I WASN'T PLANNING ON IT. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE FLASH ALONE NOW.

COACH

BETTER STILL...HOW ABOUT I LEAVE *ALL* OF YOU ALONE!

THANKS A LOT, LADY! NOW I CAN'T GET MY BOOK AUTOGRAPHED--

DRY UP. YOU OKAY, FLASH?

IT WAS JUST A *SLAP*, BETTS. YOU WANT PAIN? I'M A FOOTBALL PLAYER. TRY HAVING FIVE GUYS PILE ON TOP OF YOU. NOT FUN.

IT *CAN* BE IF YOU *DO* IT RIGHT.

WHOAAA! AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE *WHOLESOME!*

KIDDING! BOY, YOU USED TO HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR WHEN WE WERE DATING.

DATING?

OH, HEY! ARROW!

WHAT, UH...

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I STARTED WORRYING YOU MIGHT GET YOURSELF INTO SOME ***TROUBLE***, SINCE YOU WERE SO WORKED UP ABOUT THIS WHITMAN PERSON.

SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO TALK YOU OUT OF IT.

OH, WHEN YOU'VE KNOWN FLASH AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU'LL KNOW NO ONE CAN TALK HIM OUT OF ANYTHING.

BETTY BRANT...THIS IS MISS ARROW, THE SCHOOL NURSE WHERE I'M TEACHING.

ARROW, BETTY BRANT... A *DAILY BUGLE* REPORTER...

AND FORMER GIRLFRIEND. I SEE YOU LEFT OUT THAT PART.

WELL, SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST.

FORMER GIRLFRIEND. WELL...

HOW NICE FOR YOU. AND YOU'RE SO SWEET, WHY...

...I COULD JUST EAT YOU UP.

MR. TOOMES?

EMERGENCY

MR. TOOMES, I'M DOCTOR PROCTOR. AND DON'T BOTHER WITH THE JOKES, I'VE HEARD THEM ALL.

MR. TOOMES, I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW THIS LIGHT WITH YOUR EYES.

UMM HMM...

UMM HMM. VERY GOOD.

VERY GOOD. MR. TOOMES, I'LL BE PERFECTLY CANDID WITH YOU...

YOU'VE HAD A CVA--A CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENT. WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A STROKE.

IT'S AFFECTED NEUROMUSCULAR ACTIVITY ON THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR BODY. THERE'S SOME PARALYSIS... YOU'LL HAVE DIFFICULTY SPEAKING FOR A TIME...

THE FORTUNATE THING IS, IT WAS ONLY A MILD INCIDENT. WITH TIME AND PHYSICAL THERAPY, YOU CAN--

Kiiiiii...

I'M SORRY, WHAT? I DIDN'T...

Kiiiiii... meeeeee...

Caaan't... be like... thisssss...

Kill... meeee...

SOMEONE WILL BE AROUND TO CHECK ON YOU SOON, MR. TOOMES...

Caaann't be weeaaak... Kiiiiii...me...

OH. HERE'S AN ORDERLY TO...

BEDPAN.

YES. OF COURSE.

EXCUSE ME... DOCTOR...

I'M SORRY, I'VE ROUNDS TO--

AWING

THEY'LL WAIT.

ICU

AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. I'M HONORED.

WHAT DID SPIDER-MAN DO TO MR. TOOMES?

SPIDER-MAN? AS NEAR AS I CAN DETERMINE, HE DID NOTHING, AGENT...

MADDOX.

ADVANCED AGE DID IT, AGENT MADDOX. NOTHING MORE.

MADROX. AGENT MADROX.

AND BELIEVE *ME*, DOCTOR...

"...WHERE THE *VULTURE* IS CONCERNED...

"...SPIDER-MAN IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE MORE INVOLVED THAN ANYONE EXPECTS."

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

ALL RIGHT, ALREADY!

KNOCK KNOCK

OKAY, I'M HERE. WHAT--

YOU!

WHA...WHAT'S *THAT*...IN YOUR *HAND?*

I'M *COMING, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!!*

THE FIRST DAY IN *MONTHS* I DECIDE TO GO TO SLEEP EARLY, AND *THIS* IS WHAT I GET!

IT'S A BILL.

READ IT.

EMPIRE MEDICAL

WHOA. A BIG BILL.

THESE ARE ALL MEDICAL CHARGES.

YOURS?

MY MOTHER'S.

SHE'S BEEN SICK. *VERY* SICK.

AND I'VE BEEN OUT OF WORK...AND HER MEDICARE DOESN'T...

AND I'M IN DEBT UP TO MY *BUTT*...

AND WHEN JAMESON'S PEOPLE APPROACHED ME...THEY WERE DIGGING INTO ALL PETER'S OLD RELATIONSHIPS...

...AND THEY OFFERED ME SO MUCH MONEY...AND...

EMPIRE MEDICAL

OH GOD, I'M A *TERRIBLE* PERSON!

NO! NO, IT'S...

IT'S OKAY--!

I...I ADMIT IT, I WAS MAD AT PETER WHEN I FIRST HEARD...FELT LIED TO AND EVERYTHING...

BUT THE MAN JAMESON SENT TO WRITE THE BOOK...HE MADE IT SOUND SO MUCH WORSE THAN IT WAS...

BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE I NEEDED THE MONEY...

I'M A TRAITOR. I'M A JUDAS. THEY SHOULD'VE JUST PAID ME THIRTY SILVER COINS...

OKAY, OKAY, LET'S RATCHET DOWN THE MEA CULPAS JUST A *FEW* NOTCHES.

I CAN'T JUST GO PUBLIC...SAY HOW BADLY I FEEL, TALK ABOUT HOW THINGS WERE DISTORTED. THERE'S THINGS IN MY CONTRACT... THEY'LL TAKE BACK THE MONEY...

I HAVE A SHOT AT GETTING MY HEAD ABOVE WATER... MAKING MY MOM COMFORTABLE...

RELAX. YOUR HANDS WILL BE CLEAN.

BUT THE TRUTH HAS A WAY OF GETTING OUT.

I'M GOING TO PUT A POT OF COFFEE ON, AND YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING.

You... of course... it's you...

Kiiiii me.

I don't... want to live...

YES. YOU DO.

As... a half man?

A... thing? A... weakling?

It's wrong. It's... unnatural...

But then... you wouldn't... understand... that...

...because you're...weak...

...and have... always been... weak...

You dress... like a hunting creature...

But... you're a joke... an *insult*...

It's lucky... your uncle died...

...so he wouldn't see... what you've become...

Wha--?

MADROX! WE'RE STILL GETTING FEED THROUGH THE DEVICE IN TOOMES' EAR. HE'S ASKING SOMEONE TO KILL HIM.

YEAH, THAT'S THE ORDERLY. HE ASKED THE DOCTOR, TOO.

HE'D PROBABLY ASK A PASSING BAG LADY IF--

BUT HE'S TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE BEING LUCKY HIS "UNCLE DIED."

UNCLE?

WE'RE GETTING ELEVATED READINGS IN ROOM 504! HEART RATE JUMPING!

504? THAT'S--

SON OF A--!

EVERYBODY STAY BACK!!

THAT'S AN ORDER!

504

MFFF...
MMMMMFFFF...

MMMFFFFF!
MFFFFFFFF!

MFFFF!
MFFFFFFF!!

MFFFFF....

MFFFFF...

FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BEGGING TO *DIE*...

...YOU FIGHT FOR LIFE PRETTY HARD.

⇁HUFFFF⇁
⇁HUFFFF⇁

YOU CAN SPEND THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TALKING ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU *SAID* YOU *WANTED* TO DIE...

...OR REMEMBERING HOW MUCH YOU FOUGHT *NOT* TO DIE.

AND MAYBE YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD CALL WEAKNESS-- AND OTHERS, COMPASSION-- ISN'T *ALWAYS* SUCH A *BAD* THING.

FREEZE!

DAMMIT!

DAILY BUGLE

I'LL KILL HER!

I'LL HAVE MY LAWYERS ALL OVER HER!

LOOK AT THIS, ROBBIE! A FRONT PAGE STORY IN *THE GLOBE*, TALKING ABOUT HOW WE "*TOOK ADVANTAGE*" OF "*POOR, CONFUSED DEB WHITMAN!*"

DAILY GLOBE

CLAIMING WE CHANGED THE FACTS TO MAKE SPIDER-MAN LOOK ***WORSE!*** HOW SHE WAS DRIVEN TO DESPERATION BECAUSE OF PERSONAL PROBLEMS!

SHE THINKS SHE'S GOT PERSONAL PROBLEMS ***NOW--!***

READING THIS STORY, JONAH, I'M NOT SURE WHAT WE CAN DO. IT CLAIMS SHE DIDN'T COOPERATE. THAT IT'S ALL ATTRIBUTED TO "*ANONYMOUS SOURCES.*"

WHO ***WROTE*** THE STORY?

NO BYLINE.

WELL, I DIDN'T BECOME PUBLISHER OF THE *DAILY BUGLE* BY LETTING THINGS LIKE THIS SLIDE.

YOU!

ME, MR. JAMESON?

NO, THE YOU ***BEHIND*** YOU! YES, YOU!

BAD ENOUGH THAT ***PARKER*** TOOK MY MONEY WHILE COVERING HIS OWN MISCHIEF! NEVER AGAIN!

YOU'RE AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER! INVESTIGATE HOW *THE GLOBE* GOT THIS STORY ABOUT DEB WHITMAN! FIND OUT HOW THEY GOT IT, AND WHO WROTE IT!

I'LL GET RIGHT ***ON*** THAT, MR. JAMESON.

BRANT

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

Well, folks, that just about wraps our three-part Vulture epic, "Taking Wing," and also closes the chapter on my involvement with Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man. ***But before you get all teary-eyed—or, more likely, get trashed in celebration—let me assure you that*** Friendly ***will be in very capable hands.*** Friendly ***and*** Sensational ***are now the property of the Brevoort office and hot-shot editor Steve Wacker has personally wrested*** Friendly ***from my hands in a mostly bloodless coup (I got a paper cut as he was pulling the comic book out of my hands). Steve has promised to be a gentle caretaker of the*** Friendly ***legacy and may even answer your letters if you ask nicely. Meanwhile, I will have my paper-cut hands full with plenty of other books, including*** Amazing Spider-Man, ***so I'm sure I'll see you Spider-fans around.***

FNSM Crew,

I'll admit it: I didn't think *Friendly* was going to get any better than issue #13. The type of Spidey stories we've received in the first year-and-some-change of this series seemed perfectly suited, along with *Sensational*, to fill any gaps left by *Amazing*. As stunning as the stories have been (hey, why has there never been a "Stunning" Spidey?), I thought we were going to keep getting the same sort of stories—funny, and focused on some of the more mundane aspects of Peter's life rather than the full-time superheroics of *Amazing*—for as long as the title lasts.

Clearly, I was wrong. With issue fourteen, it has finally become clear that no matter what he's doing, Parker can never stop being Spider-Man. Whether he's wearing the tights and pounding in the Shocker's waaaaaay last-season insulated mask or stalking the streets with a really tacky fake moustache, the duties he carries as the spider-who-walks-like-a-man will always impact on everything he does, no matter how unimportant it may seem.

I almost feel sorry for him.

Eaton's art was a welcome change. It is no better or worse than the art shown in the first thirteen issues, but I think that we are about to see a story with a depth that Nauck's lighter tone would struggle to convey. While I'd be happy to stare at either artist's work for days on end, I hope that the style of the art will continue to be dictated by the story and that *Friendly* never succumbs to the trap of limiting its stories to fit within one single artist's range of styles.

I'm glad to see that the team behind *Friendly* is dedicated to producing a wide range of fantastic Spider-stories rather than sticking to a single theme or gimmick. Variety can only do the book, and the character, a world of good!

Keep up the dazzling work, for as long as my only complaint is a completely make-believe rivalry with an equally dedicated fan, I'll be proud to proclaim: Form Friendly Fantastically!

- Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

P.S. - I heard that Paul Di Filippo is an unregistered communist mutant terrorist accountant. Just sayin', is all... (it isn't as though the O*N*E or Tony Stark reads these letters!)

Well, just so long as Paul doesn't wear a funny colored costume, Tony's okay with him being an unregistered communist mutant terrorist accountant; Tony told me so right after he busted me for wearing a funny colored costume without a license. How did a guy wearing a tin can become a member of the fashion police?

FRIENDLY foax,

I'm not exactly sure what irks Adrian J. Watts about my sharing the letters page with him. As far as I can see, he appears to be comparing himself to Peter David in terms of critical acuity, and me to Brian Bendis. Heck, I'll take comparison to Bendis any day! And I've never yet heard of any feud between the two creators that would make them matter and anti-matter on the same letters page. I'm reminded of an instance in *The Simpsons* where belligerent Moe addresses Lisa with, "Listen, I don't like you, and you don't like me." Lisa replies, baffled, "But, Moe, I like you."

In any case, I believe both Messr. Watts and I are united in our appreciation of the fine storytelling going on in this title. The art of Eaton and Dell continues to uphold high standards, capable of portraying both titanic action scenes and domestic ones with appropriate power or subtlety. And Peter's writing remains sharp and surprising and affectionate to the cast. Spidey and his rogue's gallery have seldom been more vital!

- Paul Di Filippo

Hey, Paul, I'm just as perplexed! Apparently, Adrian Watts has a bone to pick over you being such a reasonable, nice guy... and an unregistered communist mutant terrorist accountant.

Hello again, FN Spidey-Team,

Great, great, great! Issue #14 makes another great addition to the *FNSM* title! PAD's pulled it off again, what with the nods to stories of Spidey-past: Deb Whitman (only know her from the animated series, but still), "Ben Reilly" (loved this part) and guest appearances by some of Spidey's superheroic allies (kind of). And speaking of Ben Reilly, I gotta tip my hat to Peter David twice as much as usual, because I love that he's able to show that Peter still thinks of his good "brother." This is really good characterization on PAD's part. While I'm looking forward to the return of Todd Nauck (or Mike Wieringo) and the rest, a nice, bright, red-blue-and-shiny Spidey from Eaton, Dell, and Milla is something I'm very content with.

And now that that wimpy Klum is out of the way, Spider-Man's up against that fogy Vulture. But Spidey's faced this guy so many times, how can he prove a challenge at all at this point? How can an old man still be kicking after so many shameful beatings at the hands of the web-slinger? Anyhow, impressive work yet again! But one request: with the "reappearance" of Ben Reilly, could Peter Parker maybe slip on that Spider-Man II costume too? Or hey, in honor of issues #6 and #7, an El Muerto mini-series? Heh, maybe I'm pushing it.

- Parker de la Cruz
Winnipeg, MB

The return of the hoodie costume? Never! Over my dead body! No way in hel—oh wait, I'm not working on this book anymore, am I?

Hello,

I've been a Spider-Man reader since 1984 and have seen the character go through some really good stories and some really bad ones. One of my favorites was the infamous "Clone Saga." Despite numerous editorial changes in direction and the way it ended, I have felt that there were some very thought-provoking and entertaining stories contained within it.

Unfortunately, I've long felt that the Marvel editorial staff has treated the entire storyline, over the past decade, as an embarrassment that should be forgotten. Although there have been some such storylines that are better left in the past, my opinion has been that the "Clone Saga" was not one of them.

I was very pleased to see the "return" of Ben Reilly in *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #14*, if for no other reason than simple acknowledgment that the storyline had happened and was an important part of the character's history. Whereas I would love to see the true return of Ben (or, better yet, a trade collection of the entire Clone Saga—much like the "Marvel Visionaries" series), I am satisfied with this re-emergence and look forward to how the "Unmasked" storyline plays out.

-Scott J. Larson
Chicago, Il

Thanks for the loyalty, Scott, and we're glad you dug the Ben Reilly reference. Marvel editorial is very aware of the Clone Saga and its fans; why else would there be an Ultimate Clone Saga? And keep your eyes on the regular Marvel U, because there may be more Clone goodness in your future.

Spider-Mail,

Well, I rarely write in, but I thought with all that's going on, I should. The only way you know how you're doing is to hear the thoughts of fans. I have been reading comics for over a decade now and have read Spidey from the beginning. I like how there are currently three very different books covering Spidey and how each book has a different feel that appeals to different aspects of Spider-Man. *Sensational* deals with the darker, more adult storylines. *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* is the lighter, fun book. And *Amazing* deals with the character in the center of the Marvel Universe, coping with the big life changes around him—it's the core of Spider-Man.

When I heard about this big Marvel crossover event, I was very skeptical. I am not a huge fan of crossovers usually, because I feel they sometimes detract from a character's own storyline and growth. But when I heard that Spider-Man was going to be affected and play a major part, and it was going to change the entire Marvel Universe, I decided I should check it out. I must say I have been very impressed thus far. Real civil wars tend to be very complicated and very messy and eventually devolve into something where everyone forgets why it started. And that is what you guys have been portraying so well. I am actually finding myself eagerly checking the mailbox for my latest Spidey titles and counting down the days until the next installment of *Civil War.*

I was skeptical of the unmasking at first as well, but it's also being handled very well. Tony Stark and Aunt May didn't realize what Peter knew all along: Spider-Man is unique because his villains make it personal with him and as soon as they know who he is, they will come after him with everything they've got, which is exactly what they are doing.

I was at first very disappointed to hear that Spider-Man was going to be pro-registration. It just didn't seem to fit. Peter, of all people, should know the danger of revealing one's identity and that heroes do what they do not because somebody tells them, but because it's the right thing. So I was thrilled when Spider-Man eventually switched sides in *Amazing #535*. Although I was afraid it was going to be for some stupid reason, like Tony using the last roll of toilet paper and not replacing it with a new roll. As it turned out, it wasn't. It was, instead, everything I had hoped it to be. Peter Parker finally realized that being a hero means doing what's right even if it isn't easy, even if the law isn't on your side.

Kudos, guys, on a great job. I am loving Spider-Man right now and Marvel on the whole. And I just wanted to let you know.

-Matthew Basile

Thanks for the nice letter, Matthew, and I agree with you. I think the Spider-books right now are the best they've been for a long while (granted, I'm a little biased). And as for Tony, I thought it was bad enough he was a member of the fashion police, but now you're telling me he doesn't even replace the toilet roll? That guy is just dead to me.

Dear *FNSM*,

I have a question: Will Uncle Ben be back as a villain? Oh, and before I forget, are you guys gonna put in a Green Goblin issue any time soon?

-Steven Smith

Hey, Steven! Thanks for giving me the chance to squeeze in a couple more plugs before they tear me—kicking and screaming—off this book: the Green Goblin (a.k.a. Norman Osborn) is in the all-new, all-different Thunderbolts ***by Warren Ellis and Mike Deodato! As for alternate-reality Uncle Ben, he returns next month (sorta!) and he's bringing the Sandman, Spidey's black costume, and Steve Wacker with him!***

And now, it's time for me to swing off into the sunset! Keep it Friendly***!***

--Michael

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